OPENBUDGETS

User Guide

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Are any other questions about the platform still unanswered? Contact us:
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1.   WHAT IS OPENBUDGETS.BRUSSELS?

The Openbudgets.brussels platform allows you to see the public expenditure of the Brussels-Capital Region. The Brussels Region allocates budgets to public and private operators in the form of subsidies or via public contracts, for specific missions.

Subsidy

Legal definition: a subsidy is any form of financial support, contribution, benefit or aid, whatever its form or name, granted for a direct or indirect purpose of general interest, to an activity organised by a third party, whatever the name of that activity. A subsidy is a repayable advance of funds, granted without interest, to promote activities in the public interest.

A subsidy can be organic, i.e., regulated, or optional, i.e., not defined by specific regulations.

A subsidy therefore includes allocations between public services but does not refer to bonuses granted on a personal basis.

Public procurement contract

Legal definition: a public contract is a contract for pecuniary interest concluded between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities and having as its object the execution of works, the supply of products or the provision of services, as defined by the Act of 17 June 2016 on public procurement contracts.

Public procurement contracts thus enable public authorities to secure, through contracts, the resources essential to their proper functioning, whether in terms of infrastructure (works), supplies or services.

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a.   How does Openbudgets work?

Openbudgets.brussels is a data visualisation tool.

The data, initially published on the datastore.brussels platform by the Brussels public administrations, is transferred onto Openbudgets.brussels via a feed. This means that when a public administration publishes new data on datastore.brussels, it is subsequently displayed on Openbudgets.

> ➤ ***datastore.brussels*** *is a platform that brings together all the open data of the Brussels administrations.*
> ➤ *In the interests of budgetary transparency, the Brussels Region wanted to provide citizens with a simple tool for viewing data.* ***Openbudgets*** *was developed with the ElasticSearch suite, via the* ***Kibana*** *graphical data representation tool.*

b. Data updates on Openbudgets

Openbudgets is dependent on the updating of the data by the administrations. The data available on the platform is therefore the most recent data published on datastore.brussels.

Each table or visualisation contains an update date for the data.

To consult the list of public administrations whose data are published on datastore.brussels, go to the "about us" page of the Openbudgets platform.

c. Data reuse

All data and visuals published on Openbudgets are free to use, provided that:

1. the source of the data (openbudgets.brussels) is systematically and clearly identifiable;
2. the source data is not modified in the event of dissemination or statistical use.

d. Openbudgets and data protection

Every effort has been made to ensure that the conditions of use of the published information comply with the legal requirements for data protection.

2. VISUALISATIONS ON OPENBUDGETS

Discover the key figures for the past year as well as the top beneficiaries, according to their status and the type of payment.

a. Key numbers 2020

The key figures include the most recent data encoded in the datastore.brussels platform and available for the year 2020. They are presented in five categories:

- **Public organisations**: *this number corresponds to the number of administrations that have subsidised or contracted with public and/or private operators and have published their data on the Brussels opendata platform.*
- **Beneficiary organisations**: *this number includes private and public organisations that have received subsidies or been paid under public procurement contracts.*
- **Total expenditure on subsidies to NPOs (excluding the public sector)**: expressed in euros, this amount covers all subsidies paid to NPOs excluding the public sector.
- **Total expenditure on subsidies to businesses (excluding the public sector and service vouchers):** expressed in euros, this amount covers all subsidies paid to businesses excluding the public sector.
- **Total amount spent on public procurement contracts:** expressed in euros, this amount indicates the total amount spent on public procurement contracts by the Brussels administrations registered on datastore.brussels.

Filters can also be applied. These come from the Kibana system and are based on the data model. Consult the data model on datastore.brussels and the filter explanations via the Kibana user guide.

b. Top beneficiaries

There are three tables in this section:

- ***Subsidies to NPOs (excluding the public sector) - Top 15 beneficiaries****: t*his graph shows the NPOs that received the most subsidies in 2020 and the total amount of the subsidies. Public sector NPOs are not included in this graph. However, the data for this category is available in the **data table**.
- ***Subsidies to businesses (excluding the public sector and service vouchers) - Top 15 beneficiaries***: *t*his graph shows the businesses that received the most subsidies in 2020 and the amount of the subsidies. Public sector companies and service vouchers are not included in the selection. However, the data for these two categories is available in the **data table**.
- ***Public procurement - Top 15 beneficiaries:*** find the private companies that have signed public procurement contracts with public administrations, as well as the different amounts involved.

Filters can also be applied. These come from the Kibana system and are based on the data model. Consult the data model on datastore.brussels and the filter explanations via the Kibana user guide.

c. Breakdown of expenditures

This graph shows the 20 largest categories of expenditure in the Brussels-Capital Region, displayed according to their purpose and by order of budgetary size, excluding allocations within the public sector. By default, the data displayed is for 2020. Clicking on a category displays this data exclusively.

Filters can also be applied. These come from the Kibana system and are based on the data model. Consult the data model on datastore.brussels and the filter explanations via the Kibana user guide.

3. DATA ON OPENBUDGETS: PUBLIC CONTRACTS AND SUBSIDIES

These tables aim to bring together all the data on payments made by the Brussels Region since 2018 and available on datastore.brussels. The data aims to bring together payments made in the framework of subsidies, public procurement contracts and operating costs (rent, charges for water, gas and electricity consumption, etc.).

Please note that the data belongs to the Brussels public administrations. When using this data, please mention s a minimum the administration responsible for the data, the Openbudgets platform and the date on which the data was consulted.

The "Subsidies" and "Public Contracts" tabs allow access to tables showing only one or the other of these types of expenditure.

a. Explanations of the fields in the table

Name of public organisation	*Legal name of public organisation*
Basic allowance	*A basic allowance is the smallest component of the budget structure and corresponds to a specific revenue or expenditure.*
Year	*Year of payment. The data is primarily for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.*
Beneficiary CBE code	*The CBE code for beneficiaries is available on the website of the Crossroads Bank for Enterprises (CBE).*
Name of beneficiary	*Legal name of the beneficiary, as registered in the CBE.*
Amount paid (€)	*All amounts shown are in euros. In the event of negative amounts, this is a negative settlement on a committed amount (e.g. the administration had committed 100 euros, but only spent 80).*

Point of attention on foreign beneficiaries: they are not integrated on the platform.

b. Searching for data

Two types of search are possible: you can search by keyword or via the filters (name of the public organisation, the desired year, category of expenditure, legal form of the beneficiary or its postcode). All amounts shown in the table are in euros.

1. Via the search bar, where you can directly enter your keywords. ***Tip****: if you are looking for compound words, enter your search with quotation marks (e.g. "Services of the Government of the Brussels Region"). This will avoid too many inappropriate results.*

2. Via the filters on the left of the table:

Name of the public organisation	*Enter the name of the Brussels public organisation you are looking for. Please respect the case (upper/lower case) of the words.*
Year	*The available data is primarily for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.*
Legal form of the beneficiary	*Find the different legal forms of beneficiaries of a subsidy or public procurement contract.*
Post code of the beneficiary	*You can also search for a beneficiary via its post code (beneficiary's registered office).*

c. Adding filters to the table

Filters can also be applied. These come from the Kibana system and are based on the data model. Consult the data model on datastore.brussels and the filter explanations via the Kibana user guide.

d. Downloading the data

All the data can be downloaded via the "download all data in CSV" button. You can also download only a selection, via the "export" option, either as RAW data or FORMATTED (as it appears in the table) data.

4. Questions or suggestions?

If you have any questions about the **data** itself, please contact the administration responsible for this data.

If you have any questions/suggestions regarding the **Openbudgets platform**, please contact the brussels region informatics center, Paradigm, via irisline@paradigm.brussels.